



The Informer

Message from HQ

COL Richard M. H. Loesch
CDTF Commander

OK! I'd like to talk about where we are as a Task Force following this quarter. As many of you may be aware, we have many vacancy announcements on our website. I need your help in getting these vacancies filled. But first, I should let all of you know that the link to our website is no longer with the Joint Staff Division, but with the Army Division. This is a result of our assignment as a brigade of the 49th Combat Support Command (CSC).

Anyway, as to the vacancies I would offer this guidance: Should any of you who are deploying see a vacancy you would like to apply for, please do. Here's how we will instruct the selection boards to proceed. First, current and deployed former CD Soldiers/Airmen applying will receive an additional 5 points to their overall score. Second, if a Soldier or Airman who is about to deploy is selected, we will backfill that person with a Soldier or Airman who is not deploying until the selectee returns.

About two weeks ago, we learned that we would take command of California's first Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) – a real mouth full pronounced "Surf Pee". Under CDTF oversight, the CERFP will stand up, train, receive a 5th Army external evaluation, and be validated by The Adjutant General (TAG) by 1 August 04.

This is a tall task but with the help of the 49th CSC, the 9th and 95th Civil Support Teams (CSTs), an Exercise Control Cell, and Task Force Planning Cell we will succeed. This CERFP will stand up at the Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB) in Los Alamitos and be known as CERFP (South). It is a follow on force to the CSTs and our Quick Reaction Force (QRF). It consists of a decontamination, medical/triage, search/rescue and excavation, and security sections.

The M-Day Soldiers assigned come primarily from 40th Infantry Division and will have a two year tour of duty as CERFP (South). TAG's intent is to form



another CERFP in northern California during the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2005.

Because of the CDTF's added responsibilities as the Military Assistance to Civil Authorities (MACA) Task Force, we will add a 10 person planning cell to our headquarters. They will not be on Counterdrug orders thus, assuring we will not violate the requirement of NGR 500-2. This cell will be composed of Active Guard Reserve (AGR) Soldiers as well as Soldiers and Airmen on Full Time National Guard Duty (FTNGD). TAG wants our CDTF, as the MACA TF HQ, to be able to respond to all hazards/ disasters within the state, however, Counterdrug support remains our primary mission. This means our CD teams will continue with the CD support missions while CD HQ supports them and plans to respond to state emergencies as a command and control HQ.

Some News from Our Teams

TCO picked up some additional ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance) platforms for their aircraft from the Nevada Guard. They are also trying to update their observation and imaging instruments on these platforms to improve the quality of support they provide to law enforcement. They have an upcoming mission to support the National Drug Intelligence Center's (NDIC) efforts to develop a predictive model to determine likely marijuana cultivation sites over this state's public lands by flying imaging mis-

See "Message" on Page 3

Third Quarter 2004
California National Guard
Counterdrug Task Force

Inside This Issue

- 2 CSM Message
- 2 HQ Briefs
- 2 1SG Comments
- 3 SMA/Ms. America visit CDTF Troops
- 4 Remembering Fallen Comrades
- 5 EO Column
- 6 Safety Corner
- 6 Transition Assistance
- 7 Soldier Spotlight

Counterdrug Headquarters
Sacramento, CA

Public Affairs Note:

For reasons of operational security, the last names of most CDTF members are not published.

CSM's Message



By CSM Hal London
CDTF Command Sergeant
Major

The CDTF Soldiers will not feel the affect of this effort as the organizations move forward in their development. Our requirement for CDTF Soldiers has been and still is to fill out the QRF in support of the Civil Support Teams.

I have been requested to deploy with a very good friend of this Task Force in support of OIF III. Most of you will remember COL Don Takami a previous CDC for this Task Force. I have known COL Takami for about 18 years give or take. He is the commander of the 1106th AVCRAD. They are the Theater Aviation Maintenance support to Iraq and Afghanistan. I will probably be on title 10 somewhere about the mid part of October 04. I will return sometime around November 05. I will be back-filled by

Chief Master Sergeant Jim Alsobrook. He has a formidable reputation that is above reproach within this Task Force and I'm sure within his M-day assignment. He will temporarily be the CDTF Senior Enlisted Advisor to the CDC until my return.

We are transitioning already and I ask all of you to give him the support that you all have given me. Well...ok maybe not as much as you have given me. I don't want the Chief to get too comfortable in the position.

Stay focused and safe on your missions. We are a great organization, a fact the California Army National Guard is realizing more and more each day.

Until the next time, take care and God bless.

The CDTF has been extremely busy both dealing with current Counterdrug operations and standing up the Military Assistance to Civil Authorities Task Force (MACA TF). In this article I will discuss the deployments, the MACA TF and lastly my deployment.

We have had approximately thirteen vacancies on the CDTF Jobs web page for some time. I am concerned that all of our soldiers both deployed and currently on hand have not seen these vacancies. I have asked all 1SGs and NCOICs to ensure they have the APO addresses for our deployed Soldiers and Airmen so that they may receive the announcements. Please circulate the vacancies out to your M-day units so that this task force can sustain its relevancy into the future.

The CDC has described the MACA TF and the CERFP in some detail in his article. I wanted to make all of you aware that these organizations are taking a great deal of the Command Groups attention. We are heavily engaged in the stand up of both these organizations.



Headquarters Selects New First Sergeant

"It is an honor to me to be selected as the new Headquarters First Sergeant. This has given me an opportunity to renew old friendships from the old days as a Recon Specialist with TSC and TWO plus meet and get to know Service Members that I have never met before. I would like to take this opportunity to make sure that EVERY Service Member in the Headquarters knows that my door is always open to talk and/or vent. We all need an ear sometimes. I only ask that you make sure that your Section Leader knows that you're coming to my office. As a reminder, I am here for you, not the other way around."

1SG Steven Studebaker
HQ 1SG
"Of the troops, for the troops"

News Briefs

IRR No Safe Bet

WASHINGTON (CNN) — The U.S. Army plans to call up as many as 5,600 reservists rarely tapped for duty, the Pentagon told members of Congress Tuesday. Pentagon officials said the troops, part of the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR), will fill holes in units deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan as part of the ongoing rotation of troops in and out of those combat zones.

The troops will be chosen because they have critical specialties such as military police, infantry or engineers, Pentagon officials said. The Army announced the call-up July 7, and will go into affect immediately.

No Plans to Open Draft

WASHINGTON - There are no plans to reinstate a military draft and the Bush administration does not support conscription, the Pentagon's top official for personnel and readiness told Congress.

Trying to counter recent Internet rumors that the military and the Selective Service System are girding for a potential draft to support operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, Undersecretary of Defense David S.C. Chu said there is no reason to bring back the draft.

There are 18 brigades with more than 140,000 troops in Iraq, and officials said that the next rotation will keep about 135,000 troops there in 17 brigades.

A recent "stop-loss" order kept thousands of soldiers in the military despite their plans to leave active duty, and it followed a Pentagon decision to move thousands of troops from South Korea into western Iraq by early next year. The Army is also sending its elite training forces overseas.

As of the next rotation into Iraq, reserve components are slated to make up 43 percent of the forces there, said Air Force Lt. Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, director of operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

SMA/Miss America Visit Task Force Soldiers

Story and photo by SPC Matt Jackson
40th ID PA Office

LOS ALAMITOS JOINT FORCES TRAINING BASE, Calif. – Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston and Miss America 2004 Ericka Dunlap visited with National Guard members from California and other states early this month in order to thank them for doing their part in the War on Terror.

As the highest ranking enlisted member of the United States Army, Preston serves as the Army Chief of Staff's personal adviser on all enlisted-related matters, particularly in areas affecting Soldier training and quality of life. He spends much of his time traveling to observe and talk with "troops on the ground" and their families in order to better understand their tasks, missions and needs.

Preston and Dunlap received a demonstration of TEA's video downlink system. The system is largely used by the CDTF to look for marijuana fields across California, said Command Sgt. Maj. Hal London, command sergeant

major of the CDTF. It consists of an infrared camera mounted to the bottom of an OH-58 helicopter that records and transmits images to a monitor on the ground. The monitor can be installed into a moving ground vehicle, making the system highly mobile and highly effective.

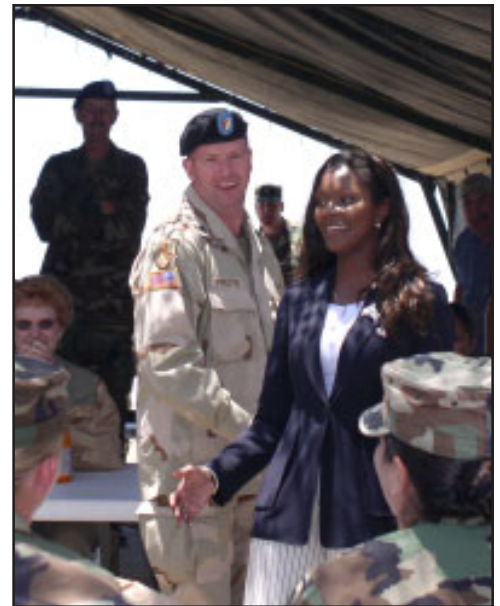
After the demonstration, Preston and Dunlap boarded a TCO C-130 for a quick flight to take a closer look at TFE's work on the border.

After lunching and talking with the Soldiers and Airmen one-on-one, Preston addressed them formally, thanking them for their contributions to the War on Terror.

He discussed issues of interest to the Soldiers, such as the new digitally camouflaged combat uniforms.

When Preston opened up to questions, one of the Soldiers asked candidly, "Do you think we can make a difference?"

"You're the next 'greatest generation,'" said Preston. "What we're doing in the Middle East is comparable to what we did in Europe during World



War II. There were only a handful of democracies in Europe in 1939. There are 22 countries in the Middle East and Israel is the only democracy. We are helping to stand up a model democracy in Iraq. It is our job to stand the country back up and hand it over to the people as soon as possible."

"Message" Cont.

sions. We are also looking at ways to move them out of the "temporary facilities" they have inhabited for these last 13-plus years. Hopefully, by close of FY 05 we will have them in a building with running water, restrooms, and windows.

TEA will be happy to learn that the contract for engines has been finalized. They are number one on NGB-CD's list to receive the first ones. I learned this in my Counterdrug Advisory Council meeting yesterday (30 June) at NGB-CD HQ. Now we need to keep the team staffed during these deployments.

TFA recently sent an air crew to take part in providing aerial security to the G-8 conference in Atlanta, GA. They were part of a multi-state effort and were lauded for the quality of their efforts on this mission.

TFE will move off Sandia before the end of this FY. Our striving goal is to get through the contract process and move them into their leased commercial structure at the same time. We will be holding a board during July to select a commander to back fill MAJ C who deploys to KFOR.

TFO has about three to five analyst openings they are trying to fill. If you, or anyone you know is interested, please apply.

TSH is having great success employing the MVIS. Hopes are we will continue to expand this mission. The Joint Harbor Operations mission is now up and running. As with TFE, we will have a selection board during July to select a temporary commander following MAJ S's deployment on KFOR.

TWO had another successful employment of their LAV in support of a law enforcement service of arrest and search

warrants at a meth lab. TWO was aided in this effort by initial aerial observation missions involving TEA and TFA.

I'd like to thank all of you who assisted in the successful CD tours for our San Diego area staffers from the offices of Senator Feinstein, Congressional Representatives Cunningham and Davis and the Mayor of San Diego. We also had the honor to show the Sergeant Major of the Army, SMA Preston, the type of support we provide in this war on drugs. Toward the end of July we will have the Chief, National Guard Bureau – LTG Blum – on our border for a tour. I never tire of letting our leaders see the fine work all of you do. My only regret is I can't get them to all of you in the time usually allotted.

Now, let us pause for a moment of silence to honor our three Guardsmen who were taken from us this quarter and pray that comfort will come to their families. CSM W also had his stepfather pass unexpectedly and I ask for your thoughts and prayers for his family and him.

Just as important are your thoughts and prayers of healing for 1SG P's wife as she rehabilitates from a vehicle accident that left her paralyzed from the waist down. We must be there for our fellow Guardsmen and their families. Thoughts and prayers are the principal means to do so.

We will go into our final FY quarter on the run. Between CAMP, CERFP, our moves of TFE and this HQ plus the deployments with their back fills, our plate is full. Stay focused on doing what we do to standard and safely. I hope all of you had a happy 4th of July with your loved ones. Stay safe. CARRY ON!

Always Remember!

Never forget those Californians who have made the ultimate sacrifice nor, the fellow members of the California National Guard Counterdrug Task Force who are currently deployed in harms way. Always remember that first and foremost you are American Soldiers and Airmen.



Spc. Michael G. Mihalakis
270th Military Police Company

Staff Sgt. David S. Perry
649th Military Police Company



Spc. Patrick R. McCaffrey, Sr.
579th Engineer Battalion



Spc. Eric U. Ramirez
670th Military Police Company

2nd Lt. Andre D. Tyson
579th Engineer Battalion

Pfc. Daniel P. Unger
1st Battalion, 185th Armor



1st Lt. Michael W. Vega
223rd Military Intelligence Battalion



Don't Risk Your Career Through Computer Misuse

By MSG Debra P.
CDTF EO Advisor

With the rapid growth in the World Wide Web, the Internet and electronic mail, the temptation and the opportunity to misuse a government computer have grown exponentially.

From our desktop computers, we now have almost unlimited access to Web sites around the globe. Although this new technology has brought many great benefits, at the same time, abuse of this technology – and the military's ability to detect abuse – have also grown.

The rules regarding computer use are defined by Army and Air regulations and policies. These rules are also contained in DoD 5500.7-R Joint Ethics Regulation, NGB All States Log Letter P98-063, the California Department of Information Technology Statewide Internet Usage Policy and the CDTF Command Policy on Counterdrug Network Internet Monitoring Protocols.

Inappropriate material includes anything that could be found offensive to anyone. Examples include (but are not limited to) specifically **prohibited** misuse of government computers:

1. Retrieving, viewing, downloading (including screen savers), storing or transmitting sexually explicit or sexually oriented, obscene or offensive material (i.e., anything pornographic or discriminatory, including dirty or offensive jokes)
2. Visiting internet chat rooms, open discussion forums, news groups or list servers (unless officially sanctioned)
3. Visiting or participation in dating or personal classified ad sites
4. Sending/receiving personal e-mail (except as authorized)
5. Sending harassing, intimidating, threatening, abusive or offensive material to or about others
6. Creating, copying or transmitting chain letters or other mass mailings, regardless of the subject matter
7. Creating, copying or transmitting any material or communication that is illegal or offensive to fellow personnel or to the public, such as activities and expressions including hate language, material that ridicules others based on race, creed, religion, gender, color, disability, national origin or sexual orientation

If you are caught misusing your government computer in this manner, disciplinary action can be taken against you. For military personnel, this typically means an Article 15 or letter of reprimand, depending on the nature and severity of the misuse.

Beyond the immediate punishment, disciplinary action can also have lasting career consequences. It can effectively limit your ability to compete for promotion or a command assignment. It may also trigger removal from a promotion and/or professional military education list, or even result in administrative separation.

If you need to use a computer for personal business and you don't have one at home, please consider that most local



and on and off-base libraries now have free computer and Internet access available for use.

My message in pointing these things out to you is not to lecture, but simply to ask you to think twice every time you use your government computer. Monitoring systems are in place that can, and do, track what you send, as well as which Internet sites you visit.

Please don't take a chance on potentially ruining the career you have spent a lifetime building. It's simply not a risk worth taking.

DOD Sexual Assault Hotline:

The DoD announced a toll-free number which has been established for people who want to contact or provide information to the DoD Task Force on Care for Victims of Sexual Assault.

(800) 497-6261

MSG Debra P.
Equal Opportunity Advisor
Commercial: (619) 545-0101
Pager: (800) 606-7023

SAFETY CORNER: 101 Days of Summer Continue

CW5 Roy L.
CDTF Safety Officer

We are currently in the 101 days of summer. Remember the 101 Days of Summer manual produced in July 2001. Dust it off, pull it out, and take a look at it. It is a great document for managing risks associated with on and off duty activities. If you cannot find your copy, let the safety office know and we will get you a new one.

It has been brought to our attention that some Incident Reports (IR's) are not going through the proper channels. So, in the event that you initiate an IR you will take the following action. First, refer to the flow chart on page 18 of CA-CDTF 385-10, Safety Standard Operating Procedures, dated January 2004. After reviewing the chart, send the results through your chain of command. The Serious Incident Report (SIR) should be sent within 24 hours using CAL FORM 190-40 dated 6 May 2003. Forward the SIR to the following: CDC, CSM, J4-OIC and NCOIC, CD Safety Officer, J3-Operations Sergeant Major, J2 NCOIC, and J3- Region 3, NCOIC.

The Army has put a new and greater emphasis on Risk Management therefore, the CDC has recently adopted an updated version of the AGAR. It includes a larger inquiry on Risk Management and the DA FORM 285 AB-R that the CDC has adopted. The key difference is that the new forms have a section that covers Risk Management that includes approximately 21 questions. If you have any questions please contact the safety office.

Recently, there has been some confusion with the proper procedures for reporting accidents. All Teams must ensure that their safety representatives have established a pre accident plan. This pre accident plan should be approved by the Team commanders and will be reviewed by the safety officer periodically for compliance. There is an accident reporting matrix that has been approved by the CDC that goes step by step on what is required to complete an accident investigation. If there are any questions, or if you

would like a copy of the matrix, or have questions regarding accident reporting please contact the safety officer.

West Nile Virus: In the May 2003 "Safety Through Communications" newsletter I addressed this virus. It is now in California and flourishing. Remember, insect repellents such as DEET are your salvation.

Three (3) point drivers on the DMV point count: Here is the deal; as long as your DMV print out shows 3 points, you do a risk assessment before you drive a vehicle provided to you by the Counterdrug Task Force. Now, here is where the risk assessment will come from. You go to: <http://safety.army.mil/home.html>. This takes you to ASMIS 1 then follow the steps, print the form, put it in your file, and give it to your commander.

Risk management/ survival in far away places: In the last couple of days, I was listening to a recently returned combat veteran from OIF talking about tactics and survival in the combat environment to a Soldier who is about to deploy to combat. I cannot tell you the value of the information the "vet" was giving to the "about to be a vet." I would strongly recommend those of you who are spooling up to deploy find someone who has just come home and: a. Thank them for the job they have done. b. Pick their brain. It is difficult to conceive the hardships our returning warriors have survived. Those who are now returning were at the tip of a very dangerous spear that has led to some wonderful results throughout the world.

POV Accidents: In April, May, and June we sustained three major POV accidents that led to total destruction of the vehicle, significant injury, and potentially long term disability. Two of the accidents can be attributed to fatigue and situational awareness. The POV is still the major killer of American military personnel. It cannot be overemphasized that leaders must maintain an awareness of the on and off duty travels of their personnel. If you need help, tools or motivational information, contact the Safety Team. **Safety First!**

Transition Assistance and Job Vacancies

Below are the most recent job vacancies within the Counterdrug Task Force. Soldiers and Airmen returning from deployment have first priority on all vacancies. There are several Team Commander and Primary/Special Staff backfill announcements out. For more information and the forms needed to apply, please visit the CDTF website at www.calguard.ca.gov/CDTF. **Several new vacancies will be posted soon so keep checking the site.**

Tour #	Open / Close	Position	Location
CD 03-06	22 Jul 03 / Until filled	Foreign Language Translator / Transcriber (E-6, CW3, 0-3)	Los Alamitos
CD 04-19	11May04 / 30Sep04	Intelligence Analyst (5 Openings)	Statewide
CD 04-21	18May04 / 28July04	Team First Sergeant (E-7 to E-8)	San Diego
CD 04-24	28May04 / 16July04	Team Commander (O-3)	San Diego
CD 04-25	28May04 / 16July04	Operations OIC (O-4 to O-5)	Sacramento
CD 04-26	28May04 / 16July04	Assistant Operations Officer (WO1 to CW3 or O-1 to O-3)	Sacramento
CD 04-27	28May04 / 16July04	Operations NCO (E-5 to E-6)	Sacramento
CD 04-29	28May04 / 30July04	Judge Advocate (Up to O-4)	Sacramento
CD 04-32	1July04 / 31July04	Supply Sergeant (Up to E-6)	Los Alamitos
CD 04-33	6July04 / 30Sep04	Reconnaissance Specialist (E-1 to E-6)	Marysville

Soldier Spotlight

TWO Soldier Shines in Border Patrol Tactical Unit Training School

*Story by PFC Kara Greene
69th Press Camp Headquarters*

In a climate where winter temperatures can drop to 20 degrees and cover the ground in a thick blanket of snow, most Soldiers would not want to participate in infantry training much less volunteer for it. But, to successfully complete the Border Patrol Tactical Unit training school at Las Cruces, N.M., students must have the strength to fight and the will to push onward in such conditions.

The National Guard and the Department of Homeland Security – U.S. Customs and Border Protection (USCBP) have collaborated to conduct a two-week course, incorporating training from both urban and rural settings, open to National Guard personnel from California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas and USCBP officers. By the end of training, the students are qualified to conduct observation post (OP) missions in conjunction with the USCBP.

“This has been the most challenging training I have ever completed. Any Soldier who thinks he (or she) can make it should try,” said SGT Pete J. of TWO. Only nine students graduated the course that initially consisted of 30 students. Of those nine, SGT J. was one of three National Guardsmen to graduate.

At age 25, SGT J. has been with the California Army National Guard for seven years. He completed Basic Training at Fort Benning, Ga., as an 11B, Infantryman, and recently attended 19D, Cavalry Scout training at Fort Knox, Ky. According to SGT J., this training equipped him with the essential knowledge necessary for the course.

On the first day of training, the pace for the course is set when students begin by taking an Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), move right to the firing range for weapons qualification, and then on to an 8-mile road march.

Students are required to score at least 80 points in each of the APFT events. SGT J. excelled with a maximum score of 300 (100 points in each event). At the ranges, they must qualify as an expert with the M16A2 rifle, firing at least 38 out of 40, and the M9 pistol, shooting a minimum 160 out of 300. Only then can the students begin the real training.

“The standards are high for this intense training,” said SGT J.

“At any point, if a Soldier (or student) is not able to qualify or to stay up with the rest of the class, he (or she) is sent home.”

A typical morning began with standard physical fitness for a couple of hours, to include a group run and an eight mile road march to be completed within two hours. Some days log runs were conducted as a variation from the ordinary push-ups and sit-ups.

Almost daily, students were at the ranges qualifying



TWO's SGT Pete J. prepared himself for the challenges of BORTAC by conducting road marches of up to 15 miles. He credits his physical and mental strength to his success at the intense training. Photo by SSG Joseph C. Barker.

under difficult conditions. Weather, lack of sleep, physical exhaustion, and firing at night took its toll on the students further reducing their numbers.

“The mission pace is quick and there's no time for hesitation,” said SGT J..

The only point taken from his nearly perfect scores on the ranges occurred when he accidentally shot a friendly target, thinking it was an enemy target. The target was a life size cutout of a man dressed in gang-style clothing holding a rolled up newspaper in one hand.

“They wanted us to learn to just make a decision. Good or bad, just make a decision,” explained SGT J. In a real-world situation with the cover of darkness, students can easily confuse foes with allies.

Some days the training didn't end with the daylight hours. During overnight missions in the field, the students were equipped with video and audio surveillance gear as well as camouflaged netting, plastic pipe and sandbags to take up positions in an OP.

SGT J. credits his physical conditioning to his success at the course. His usual workouts include running with a 50 lb.-weighted vest and completing lengthy road marches of up to 15 miles during his free time. Additionally, he also participates in extreme fighting classes at a local gym.

SGT J. is currently studying toward an associate's degree in physical fitness and would like to be a physical education teacher or a boxing coach once he's earned his degree.